

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for storing and retrieving data from an operating machine having a plurality of functions, each capable of producing signal data comprising touch memory data means to store data in binary format, an addressable switch to communicate data from said machine to said touch memory means, software means for writing selected data to said touch memory means, and means for reading the data written in said touch memory means.

2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wiring harness means, said addressable switch being disposed in said harness means and adapted to receive and transmit data by means of a one-wire protocol.

3. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein one end of said harness means including means for detachably placing said harness end in electrical communication with the currency validator.

4. Apparatus for storing and retrieving data from a gaming machine of the type used in casino parlors comprising wiring harness means, one end of which is adapted electrically to communicate with the gaming machine, a memory device in which data is transferred serially via a one-wire protocol, addressable switch means disposed in said harness means and by which data is transferred, said addressable switch means being in data communication with said memory device and used to read the data written therein, software means for writing data to said memory device according to a write function assembly code.

5. The apparatus according to Claim 4, said harness means having a plurality of mating disconnect elements whereby sections of the harness can be decoupled one from the other.

Sub A27 6. A soft count tracking system for a currency operated host gaming machine including in combination an identification adapter (IDA) that includes an integral active electronic component, said component adapted to store a unique serial number, means for placing said IDA in data communication with the host machine, a currency note validator (IDS) with microcontroller, means for placing said IDS in data communication with said IDA for interrogating the IDA for identification number, a storage mechanism (LRC) that includes integral nonvolatile storage memory means, and means for placing said LRC in data communication with said IDS thereby to receive and hold information from said IDA.

7. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 6, said means for placing said IDA in data communication with the host machine including a wiring harness, said active electronic component being disposed in said harness.

3 8. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 2, said active electronic component communicating by means of a one-wire protocol.

4 9. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 3, said wiring harness including means for detachably coupling the same to the host machine.

Sub 37 10. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 9, said LRC adapted to stack and securely transport notes and coupons.

11. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 8, each of said means for placing said IDA, IDS, and LRC in data communication comprising a harness segment.

7 12. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 11, each of said segments including mating disconnect elements by which a respective segment can be decoupled. 6

13. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 11, a soft count supervisor (SCS) adapted to be placed in detachable data communication with said memory means to interrogate and extract data from the same.

14. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 13, said SCS comprising a computer and including software means to provide spread sheet data manipulation on the data extracted from said memory means.

15. A soft count tracking system for a currency operated host gaming machine including in combination a harness adapted to transfer data from said host machine, an identification adapter (IDA) being placed in said harness in data communication therewith, thereby to receive data from the host machine, said IDA including an active electronic component adapted to communicate by means of one-wire protocol, said component adapted to store a unique serial number, a currency note validator (IDA) with microcontroller, said IDS being placed in data communication with said harness whereby said IDS can interrogate said IDA for identification number, a storage mechanism (LRC) that includes integral nonvolatile storage memory means, said LRC being placed in data communication with said harness, whereby said LRC can receive and hold data from said IDA.

16. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 15, said harness including an interface connector allowing detachable electrical coupling between the host machine and said IDA.

17. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 16, said harness including a first detachable connector allowing detachable coupling between said IDA and said IDS.

18. The soft count tracking system according to Claim 17, said harness including a second detachable connector allowing detachable coupling between said IDS and said LRC.

19. A method for storing and extracting data from gaming machines comprising the steps of placing an IDA in data communication with a host game machine, the IDA adapted to store an identification number unique to a given host game machine, placing an IDS having a microcontroller in data communication with the IDA, operating the IDS so that the same interrogates the IDA for identification, placing an LRC in data communication with the IDS, communicating the data held in the IDA to nonvolatile storage means disposed within the LRC, thereby allowing the retrieval of information compiled in the machine.

20. The method according to Claim 19, placing an SCS in data communication with the LRC for extracting the data held in the nonvolatile storage means so that the data can be manipulated and displayed in comprehensible format.

21. The method according to Claim 20, said step of placing an SCS in data communication with the LRC being accomplished by downloading the data held in the nonvolatile storage means to a digital computer.

22. The method according to Claim 21, said step of placing an IDA in data communication with a host gaming machine being accomplished by detachably connecting a wiring harness between the IDA and host game machine.